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JUDGE ORDERS BAIL REVOKED FOR TOWN'S MYSTERIOUS BENEFACTOR
ST. PAUL, MN

Bail for a man who showered a small town with more than \$1 million in gifts, including palm trees and police cars, has been revoked by a judge who doesn't trust him to return to face drug smuggling charges.

Casey Ramirez, mysterious benefactor of Princeton, Minn., had been freed Aug. 3 on a conditional bail of \$20,000, but he failed to turn in his pilot's license as required, saying he couldn't find it.

"It does not appear that defendant is a good risk on bail and likely would flee if released under any of the statutory conditions of release," U.S. District Judge Edward J. Devitt said Monday.

He said that at a bail hearing last week Ramirez was "generally unresponsive and evasive in answering questions."

Ramirez, 37, first went to Princeton, a town of 2,531 people about 40 miles northwest of Minneapolis, nine years ago as a guest of friends. Since then, he has spent more than \$1 million on the city. His gifts include a half-dozen palm trees planted on the front lawn of City Hall, cars for the police department, a \$500,000 interest-free loan to build a indoor ice rink and \$500,000 to upgrade the Princeton airport to handle small jets.

"People have been wondering ever since Casey's been around where the money has been coming from," said Princeton resident Al Bornholdt.

Ramirez and three other people were charged with using several airplanes kept at Princeton and in Florida to import and distribute cocaine from the spring of 1981 through April 1983. He also is charged with income tax evasion.

Devitt said Ramirez has avoided complying with U.S. customs laws and regulations in the past, was listed as a fugitive on an aircraft theft charge in 1979-1980 and has used more than 15 aliases.

The judge also said Ramirez has represented himself falsely as a CIA agent, a physician, a professional tennis player and the owner of a computer business, among other occupations.

At last week's bail hearing, Devitt said, Ramirez was not even sure of the name of the high school he attended, and refused, on the advice of his attorney, to answer questions about his financial situation or present or past employment.

The judge noted that Ramirez testified he kept clothing at several residences, including Florida and California.